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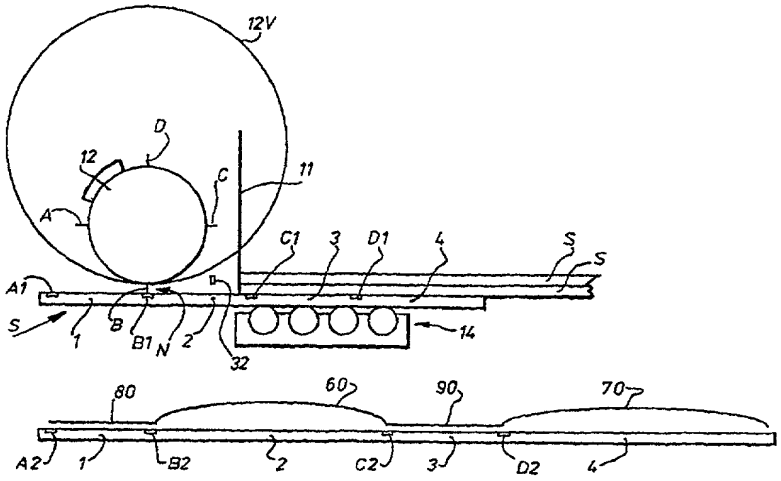
(54) Title: SHEET MATERIAL PROCESSING



(57) Abstract

There is disclosed apparatus for feeding sheet material sequentially on demand to the take–up mechanism of processing machinery, the apparatus comprising a feed table having a gate and upon which the sheets may be stacked against the gate which allows only the lowermost sheet to pass therebeneath, a bed of rollers within the surface of the table which may be rotatably driven to advance the lowermost sheet beneath the gate to the take–up mechanism when forward drive to the rollers is arrested and means to allow the rollers to free–wheel once the lowermost sheet is being advanced thereover by said take–up mechanism and means for restraining freewheeling over run of the rollers. Also disclosed is the processing of sheets which are longer in length than the circumference of a tool–carrying roll set used to process the sheet, the difference being accommodated by transferring sheet feed through the nip between the roll set and a separate servo–controlled drive upstream of the nip.